Foreign Tourists

317. SHRI S. AUSTIN:

SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR:

SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for foreign tourists inflow and foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the achievements made in this regard so far;

(c) whether the targets are likely to be achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The terminal year targets for tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings from tourism for 8th Five Year Plan are 2.57 million tourists and Rs. 7000 crores of foreign exchange respectively.

(b) The tourit arrivals during 1993-94 were 1.87 million and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from them were Rs. 4573 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, unless we experience unforeseen setbacks.

Percentage of travellers by IA

318. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of people in the country travelling by the Indian Airlines flights after the starting of operations by the air taxi operators;

(b) the percentage utilisation of the Indian Airlines Aircraft;

(c) the international standard, if any, in this regard; and

(d) the average capacity filling in the Indian Airlines flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Till August, 94 Indian Airlines carried 67.5 per cent passengers after the start of operations by the air taxi operators.

(b) and (c) The percentage of aircraft utilisation is as under:—

Aircraft type	Percentage of aircraft utilised
A 300	60.00
A 320	69.00
B 737	72.20

(d) The average capacity utilisation of IA during 1993-94 measured in terms of seat factor was 68.6 per cent.

Suggestions of the India Japan Study Committee

319. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the suggestions made by the tourism Sub-Committee of the India-Japan Study Committee in October, 1993;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to implement these suggestions; and

(c) the details of suggestions on which the Government have initiated action for implementation so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The main suggestions made by the India Japan Sub-Committee on Tourism and the actions taken thereon are as follows:—

S. No.	Suggestion	Action taken
1.	Hotels with Japanese cuisine . .	The Japanese food is availabee in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, The availability of Japanese food in the private sector hotel s cannot be ensured by Govt. of India and it depends on the demand for it.
2	Japanese speaking tour guides . .	. The Japanese knowing guides are available in various cities as per details given below :

Name of the city	No. of available Japanese knowing guides
Agra	2
Delhi	8
Jaipur	2
Varanasi	4
Calcutta	7
Khajuraho	5
Madras	7
Aurangabad	13
Bombay	11
Udaipur	1
Shephaoati	1

3	Air conditioned coaches and cars	The Ministry of Finance has issued a notification whereby approved travel agencies, tour operators, tourist transport operators and the State Tourism Development Corporation may import upto 1500 air conditioned cars and upto 250 air conditioned coaches at a concessional rate of total customs duty of 110% and 50% respectively as against the normal rate of 137%. In accordance with this policy decision, permission has already been granted for importing 623 cars and 229 coaches.
4	Safe, reliable shopping facilities with complete redressal process.	The Consumer Protection Act already provides an effective complaint redressal system.
5	Improved roads	Improvement of roads is a continuous process.
6	Improved toilet facilities at airports, stations and other facilities.	Adequate toilet facilities are available and improvement is done as and when necessary.
7	Creation of totally new destinations. .	New circuits have already been identified in the National. Action Plan on Tourism.
8	Exclusive duty free shops . . .	ITDC has laready running 29 duty free shops at different airports.
9	Eliminate the visa requirement . . .	It has not been found possible to eliminate the visa requirement.